

CAPTAIN OF THE PORT, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC NOTICE 02-93

Subj: HOT-WORK PERMITS

1. **PURPOSE**: This notice conveys the Captain of the Port (COTP) San Francisco Bay's application of the pertinent federal regulations which restrict hot work on certain vessels and/or waterfront facilities within the COTP San Francisco Bay Zone.

2. **CANCELLATION**: COTP Public Notice 4-90 is canceled.

3. **DEFINITIONS**

a. COTP - Captain of the Port San Francisco Bay as defined in 33 CFR 1.01-30.

b. Dangerous Cargo - (33 CFR 126.07) The term dangerous cargo means explosives and other hazardous materials or cargo covered by: (1) Dangerous Cargoes, 46 CFR part 148; and (2) Hazardous Materials, 49 CFR parts 170-179, except for those materials preceded by an "A" in the Hazardous Materials Table, 49 CFR 172.101.

c. Hot Work - Any operation that produces excess heat or sparks including, but not limited to, grinding, oxyacetylene or electric welding, burning, cutting, or other heat-producing activities.

d. Waterfront Facility - (33 CFR 126.01) Generally piers, wharves and other structures to which a vessel may be secured, and the adjacent land, water, and buildings. This term does not include facilities directly operated by the Dept. of Defense.

4. **DISCUSSION**: Welding and hot work pose a significant fire hazard to vessels and the facilities they are moored to, especially when dangerous cargoes are present. Safety precautions and proper training reduce the potential for a catastrophic fire or explosion, and the resulting pollution. To ensure that safe and proper procedures are being followed, boarding officers from the MSO may inspect a welding or hot-work site. Hot-work permits serve two functions:

(1) To inform the COTP where and when hot work will be taking place so that the operation may be monitored by COTP representatives.

(2) To assist in reminding the person requesting the Permit of the dangers posed by hot work near dangerous cargoes. This reminder will help ensure adequate safety precautions are taken.

Coast Guard enforcement efforts, combined with a public education and information program, are further intended to draw public attention to the practice of safe welding and hot working within the COTP San Francisco Bay zone. These efforts should result in an improved level of welding and hot work safety and reduce the risk of fire or explosions, and their potential consequences.

5. **PERMIT DURATION**: At the COTP's discretion, permits are issued to vessels for a single operation for up to 30 days, and to facilities for up to one year.

6. **REQUIREMENTS**

a. **Locations Requiring Permits**. A hot-work permit (CG-4201) must be obtained prior to conducting hot work on:

(1) Designated waterfront facilities or vessels moored thereto during the handling, storing, stowing, loading, discharging, or transporting of dangerous cargoes. (33 CFR 126.15(c))

(2) Vessels with explosives or certain dangerous cargoes as defined by 33 CFR 160.203.

b. **Obtaining a Permit**. Permits are only issued to facility owners/operators and vessel officers. To request a Permit, contact the Marine Safety Office (address and telephone number on letterhead) at least 24 hours before it is needed (except for emergencies). Arrange for the Permit to be picked up at the MSO and have a vessel officer or facility owner/operator's representative acknowledge receipt by signing a copy of the Permit for the MSO file. Facility permits may be renewed during annual inspections.

c. **Using the Permit**. Notify this office at least 12 hours before hot work is scheduled to begin. The information

required in this notification includes:

- (1) Hot-Work Permit number.
- (2) Name and location of vessel/facility.
- (3) Nature of hot work and specific location.
- (4) Dangerous cargo and its proximity to the hot work.
- (5) Scheduled time of Marine Chemist inspection (if required).
- (6) Time and date hot work is to begin and expected duration.

The watchstander will give you a “notification number.” Write this number on a copy of the Hot-Work Permit, prominently post the Permit at the site of the hot work, and follow the conditions written on the Permit.

d. Exemptions

- (1) Hot-Work Permits are NOT required for hot work in designated maintenance areas upon a facility as long as there is no dangerous cargo within a 100 yard radius of the maintenance area.
- (2) Facilities may extend their Permits to vessels moored to their facility. In such cases, the responsible vessel officer shall notify the facility owner/operator, sign a copy of the Permit, and follow the instructions described in paragraph 6.c.

e. Contractors/Other Regulations. The Permit holder shall ensure that contracted workers comply with the Permit’s requirements. The hot-work permit is not final authority for hot-work operations; all other applicable federal, state, and local regulations must be followed.

f. Enforcement. The COTP will spot-check to ensure compliance. Violations of the provisions of the Permit, or not having a Permit when required, can lead to maximum civil penalties of \$25,000.00 for each violation or criminal penalties of \$50,000.00 or 5 years imprisonment, or both (33 USC 1232).